

Message Text

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ACTION ITFE-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 VO-03 SCA-01

INSE-00 AID-05 /028 W

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R 270925Z JUN 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5614

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

UNCLAS HONG KONG 7253

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, VN

SUBJECT: FAMILY REUNIFICATION: OR WHO IS A REFUGEE
UNDER IATF PROGRAM

REF: STATE 146738

1. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DEPT'S INSTRUCTIONS IN THE REF CABLE HAS BROUGHT TO THE SURFACE A SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR WHICH WE NEED THE DEPT'S GUIDANCE. THE THREE BROTHERS MENTIONED IN THE REF CABLE HAVE COME TO THE CONGEN AND IT HAS BEEN LEARNED THAT THEIR STATUS AS REFUGEE GOES BACK BEYOND THE FALL OF SAIGON AND ANY US SPONSORED REFUGEE MOVEMENT. ONE OF THEM ENTERED HONG KONG IN JUNE 1969 AND THE OTHER TWO IN AUGUST 1972. ALL THREE OF THEM ARE WORKING AS WAITERS IN HONG KONG. THE REF CABLE MENTIONED THAT THEY WERE WORKING.

2. THE DEPT SHOULD BE AWARE THAT FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS THERE HAS BEEN A SIZEABLE COLONY OF ILLEGAL VIETNAMESE
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IN HONG KONG, ESTIMATED BY IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS

TO NUMBER UP TO A HUNDRED THOUSAND. THE MAJORITY OF THESE PERSONS ARE ETHNIC CHINESE. THE CONGEN HAS ALREADY BEEN APPROACHED BY SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS HERE WHO APPEAR TO FALL WITHIN THIS GROUP AND WHO ARE SEEKING TO ENTER THE UNITED STATES AS REFUGEES UNDER THE CURRENT PROGRAM. SHOULD THE SUBJECTS OF THE REF CABLE BE ACCORDED REFUGEE STATUS WE CAN EXPECT TO BE SWAMPED BY APPLICATIONS FROM THE ILLEGAL COLONY.

3. THERE ARE ONLY A FEW VIETNAMESE, PROBABLY LESS THAN 200, WHO HAVE ENTERED HONG KONG ILLEGALLY SINCE THE FALL OF SAIGON AND IT WOULD APPEAR THAT SUCH PEROSNS CAN LEGITIMATELY BE CONSIDERED UNDER OUR PROGRAM. THE PROBLEM OF DELINEATING BETWEEN CURRENT AND NON-CURRENT REFUGEES WILL BE DIFFICULT BUT ESSENTIAL.

4. THE CONGEN BELIEVES THAT SUCH A DISTINCTION MUST BE MADE AS IT WOULD BE GROSSLY UNFAIR TO THE RECENT REFUGEES WAITING IN THE CAMPS IF ESTABLISHED, LONG-TIME REFUGEES SUCH AS THOSE CITED IN THE REFERENCED CABLE WERE PROCESSED BEFMNE EACH REFUGEE IN THE CAMPS HAS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO ESTABLISH HIS QUALIFICATIONS AND PROCEED TO THE USA.

5. THEREFORE, THE DEPT IS REQUESTED TO DEFINE MORE CLOSELY THE PERSONS WHOM WE MAY CONSIDER AS REFUGEES AND WE PROPOSE THAT NO PERSON BE CONSIDERED WHO LEFT VIETNAM PRIOR TO A CERTAIN DATE. WE SUGGEST APRIL 1, 1975 OR THE FALL OF SAIGON, AS A REASONABLE CUT-OFF DATE.
CROSS

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